

# **Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)**

## **Steering Committee Meeting**

May 18, 2007, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Resources Agency Bldg., Room 1131

### **Draft Meeting Notes**

#### **Associated documents/handouts:**

- Agenda
- BDCP Conservation Strategy Workgroup Update (hard copy of PowerPoint presentation)
- SC Draft Meeting Notes 5/4
- Handout #1: Bundles vs. Fish table
- Handout #2: Operations Bundles vs. Criteria table
- Handout #3: Bundle Compatibility table
- Handout #4: Draft Short-list CS Options
- First Draft of Biologists' Suggested range of Expertise for Science Advisors (hard copy)
- List of members attending (sign-in sheet)

#### **Introductions and Call-in Attendees**

New members: Frank Michny

Call-in Attendees: Michael Bean, Doug Wallace

#### **Action Items and Key Decisions**

- Outreach Workgroup was established, and will be co-chaired by Karla Nemeth and Carl Wilcox. First meeting will be called in early June.
- Membership Workgroup will call a meeting in the next week to review recent applications for BDCP membership.
- Management team will be expanded to include Will Stelle.

#### **Updates**

- Alameda County DWR Court Case: Judge decided case on 4/26. On appeal, DWR received a letter of concurrence, withdrew the request for a Consistency Determination from DFG, and is pursuing re-consultation for OCAP by end of 2007.
- Membership Workgroup: Co-chairs (Tim Quinn, Ann Hayden) will call a meeting in next week to review the Contra Costa County Water District (CCCWD) and Bay Institute applications. CCWD Board of Directors authorized a letter requesting membership last week. See also Action Items and Key Decisions.
- Establishment of Outreach Workgroup: Karla Nemeth and Carl Wilcox will co-chair the Workgroup. SC members interested in participating should contact Cindy Darling. The Workgroup will manage a Request for Proposals (RFP) and guide selection of contractors for public outreach work. They will also work on aspects of NEPA scoping for BDCP; specific near-term task is to help with Scoping and releasing a Notice of Intent for the Federal Register. There is Section 6 grant funding from DFG to do some of this work, and a draft of the RFP from Resources already written. See also Action Items and Key Decisions and update on NEPA below.

- BDCP Management team augmentation: A group of SC members and K. Scarborough interviewed candidates. They recommend incorporating Will Stelle into team. There was general concurrence from the SC on this action. See also Action Items and Key Decisions.
- Science Workgroup:
  - The interview panel concluded its review of potential Lead Scientist and Facilitator positions. They recommend Denise Reed as Lead Scientist, and Bruce DeGennaro and Wayne Spencer as co-facilitators.
  - Biologists from earlier BDCP technical sessions recommended a list of necessary expertise for science panel. See also associated handout.
  - Workgroup next meeting to be held next Tuesday, 5/22. They will discuss the science panel expertise list at that meeting and make recommendations to the SC. K. Scarborough noted that the ongoing CALFED science process needs to be linked to BDCP.
- NEPA process: It was suggested that public scoping on NEPA needs to start soon; the first task would be to release a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register. The Register is currently six weeks backlogged so early action on the Notice should be taken. Outreach Workgroup will work with USFWS and NOAA on that task. BDCP is not budgeted to do the NEPA process right now, but initial scoping work can be done without new funding by DWR.

## **Review of Meeting Summaries**

5/4/07 notes approved pending the following changes:

- Page 3, Paragraph 1, Sentence 3. Change from "...iterative and is likely to..." to "...iterative and may..."
- Page 3, Paragraph 5. S. Gennet will check with John Davis that the notes accurately reflect the intent of the CVP members.

## **Conservation Strategy Workgroup**

There have been two full Workgroup meetings and several smaller group meetings between last SC meeting and today. Today the Workgroup will present the four "trunks" of CS options they will likely recommend; those trunks will be further developed in the next two weeks in preparation for impact analysis.

*CS Process and Products to Date* (presented by P. Cylinder, SAIC)

- Products to date:
  - Fish stressor and theme tables
  - CSA list
  - 17 Short-listing criteria
  - Conservation objectives
  - Conservation elements and bundles
  - Evaluation of bundles against short-listing criteria and fish benefits
  - Conservation Strategy Options (short-list of trunks being refined by Workgroup)
  - Compendium of Draft documents (in process)
- Process has included input from independent and BDCP-affiliated scientists, and has integrated CALFED, PPIC products; CSA's were developed, elements identified, re-aggregated, evaluated against criteria developed from Planning Agreement and stressors. PRE, NGO, and Fisheries Agencies recommendations were meshed to create the current four short-list trunks.
- Conservation Strategy Options Short-List (titles are temporary; detailed conservation elements will be added in coming weeks)

1. Opportunistic Delta with Existing Conveyance and Potential New Storage
  2. Through-Delta Conveyance with San Joaquin River Isolation
  3. Dual Conveyance (including isolated facility, with pumps open to the Delta for added flexibility)
  4. Isolated Facility
- Proposed Process for 6/07-12/07 (Science Input boxes will be added)
    - Refining CS Options started yesterday at CS small group meeting, will continue through end of May
    - June: Dovetail Covered Activities with CS Options
    - May- June: Development of analytical tools and evaluation criteria (possibly including science panel review) for analysis expected affects of four CS Options
    - June-August: Analysis of CS Options
    - December: Draft Framework Conservation Strategy based on outcome of analysis of CS Options

### *Discussion*

SAIC received feedback on the recent conservation elements evaluation report. A request was made to incorporate more water quality criteria in the report but the SC members generally agreed that the document was a tool that focused largely on impacts to fish, without looking in detail at the costs and non-conservation affects of the conservation element bundles. A broader, more rigorous cost analysis, including export water quality, would be completed during the summer for the short-list of CS Options that are currently being developed.

Members discussed BDCP regulatory compliance within the larger Delta planning context. Specifically, they discussed the relationship between OCAP and BDCP and how NEPA requirements will be met. BDCP will create a regulatory compliance workgroup in the near future to work through these issues. Until then the Outreach Workgroup will address the NEPA scoping process and develop the Federal Register Notice of Intent with legal counsel. The Fisheries Agencies will also continue to look at what the BDCP will need to contain to meet requirements of NCCPA and ESA, serving as a NCCP/HCP. The PRE's will continue to develop their Covered Activities. Members agreed that the work being done in developing and analyzing CS Options should be integrated into the NEPA process. There may be a relevant presentation of the POD Action Plan and current MOU at an upcoming meeting. See also Updates.

The members agreed that the current names of the CS Options do not adequately convey the species-centric conservation goals and will change them as necessary while they are being refined and developed. Some members specifically objected to the words "opportunistic" and "real-time" in the titles.

There was general agreement that refinement of the CS Options by 6/5 is critical, in order to parallel the schedule of the DRMS risk analysis. Some members of the SC will be meeting with DRMS later today (5/18) to determine how best to do so.

### **Public Comments**

No public comments made today.

### **Next Meeting**

Friday, 6/1/07. Same time and location.